



Fact Sheet

Updates to Storm Water Quality Standards in the City of San Diego Land Development Manual



Land Development Design Requirements Treatment Control Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Introduction

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board issues a storm water discharge permit (Permit) to the City of San Diego. The Permit is under the auspices of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The overall goal of the Permit is to reduce the amount of pollutants carried by storm water runoff that enter the City's storm water system. San Diego's storm water system is a combination of pipes and channels that carry runoff to streams, bays, and the Pacific Ocean. Storm water does not go to a final treatment facility before entering these waterways and the ocean.

Why is the Land Development Manual being updated?

The City is in the process of updating its Land Development Manual (Manual) to be consistent with revisions made to the Permit in January 2007. The Manual includes requirements and guidelines for how new construction must be managed and also what measures must be in place at a structure or facility after construction is completed for long term reduction of storm water pollution at the site. Public input is important and valued so that the City can consider viewpoints and ideas on the updates to achieve the goal of reducing storm water pollution and compliance with Permit requirements. The permit lists **treatment control best management practices (BMPs)** as a requirement.

What are Treatment Control Best Management Practices (BMPs)?

Treatment control BMPs, required for Priority Development Projects, capture all of the rain water on the property for a specific sized storm and remove pollutants prior to releasing the water to the storm drain system. Treatment control BMPs have an effectiveness rating of Low, Medium or High. The BMP needs to be selected based on its effectiveness on the pollutants that are likely to come from the site. For example, a parking lot may contain oil residue from parked vehicles and this oil will likely become part of the runoff during a storm. The City is required to evaluate its current guidelines for these BMPs and update them according to recent advances in technology and industry knowledge.

Why are they considered a method to reduce storm water pollution in developments?

Rain water picks up particles and pollutants that may be on the ground around the structure, or on the parking lot, road, or other surface. By processing this rain water on site, some of the pollutants and particles in the runoff can be removed before they enter the storm drain system.

References

Regional Water Quality Control Board Storm Water Discharge Permit for the City of San Diego
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/programs/sd_stormwater.html

City of San Diego Land Development Manual
<http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/industry/landdevmanual.shtml>

www.ThinkBlue.org